THE HINDU RELIGIOUS ENDOWMENTS REGULATION AMENDMENT BILL.

Mr. Subba Aiyar next introduced a Bill to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Regulation, III of 1079, as amended by Regulation VI of 1088, and said as follows :—

"Sir,

I beg to introduce a Bill to amend the Hindu Religious Endowments Regulation, III of 1079. The object of the Bill is to effect a speedy recovery of the rents and other dues due to Devaswoms under Sirkar management by enabling the Government to recover the same as arrears of 'public revenue'. In the case of some temples like those of Vycome, Suchindram and others and in the case of temples taken up by Colonel Munro, the rents are collected as arrears of 'public revenue'. This has been judicially recognised in 22 T. L. R. 54. In the words of Sadasiva Iyer, C. J., these are cases where 'the State mixes up the rents of the lands of a temple with the general revenues so as to make these rents capable of appropriation for other general purposes and so as to treat sums realised from other heads of revenue as available for temple expenses'. In the case of Devaswoms whose management has been assumed by the Sirkar under Regulation III of 1079, Section 15 enacts that the Government may direct the recovery of the rents due to such institutions as arrears of 'public revenue'. In the case of other Devaswoms such as Thuravoor and others whose management was assumed by the Sirkar before the Regulation, the rents and other dues have to be recovered through Civil Courts. There is no reason why these Devaswoms should be placed on a different footing from those whose management is assumed under the Regulation. Recovery through Civil Courts entails unnecessary expense and delay which are prejudicial to the interests of the Devaswoms. Section 15 is therefore amended so as to include these Devaswoms as well. There will be no unnecessary interference of the rights of tenants for Section 15 will apply only when the rent roll is settled and the liability of the tenant is definitely recorded after due enquiry by an officer appointed by the Sirkar. As a doubt has been expressed in 22 T. L. R. 54 that the definition of 'Hindu Religious Endowment' as contained in Section 3 (b) stands in the way of Section 15 being made applicable to such Devaswoms, the wording of Section 3 (b) has also been amended. By this amendment the general scope of the Regulation is not in the least affected. Religious Endowments already under the management of the Sirkar need not be specifically exempted no power is vested by the Regulation in any body to question in any way the management such endowments. I therefore beg to move that the principle of the Bill be affirmed."

Seconded by Mr. Subrahmanya Aiyar.

Carried.

Mr. Subba Aiyar then moved that the Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting the Mover and Messrs. Subrahmanya Aiyar and Sesha Aiyar to report within two months.

Seconded by Mr. Vieyra.

Carried.

The Council adjourned at 12-25 P. M.

M. KRISHNAN NAI

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